

Happy Birthday, Seattle!

By Walt Crowley, HistoryLink

On the drizzly morning of November 13, 1851, the schooner *Exact* dropped anchor off the shoreline we know as Alki Beach. A bedraggled group of 22 men, women, and children led by Arthur Denny rowed ashore, where they were greeted by an ailing David Denny and, later, Lee Terry. According to William Bell, the women took one look at the half-finished log cabin on the beach and sat down on a log for “a big cry.”

From this inauspicious beginning sprang the Seattle of today. Unlike the Collins/Maple/Van Asselt party of farmers who had settled in present-day Georgetown two months earlier, the Dennys, Lows, Bells, Borens, and Terrys were city-builders who dreamed of creating a second New York in time — New York-Alki, that is, New York “by and by.”

The area’s original Duwamish and Suquamish inhabitants initially welcomed the newcomers and helped them survive their first winter. Most of the Denny Party relocated to the east shore of Elliott Bay and filed the first land claims on February 15, 1852 in the future city they would name Seattle after the great Duwamish chief who aided them.

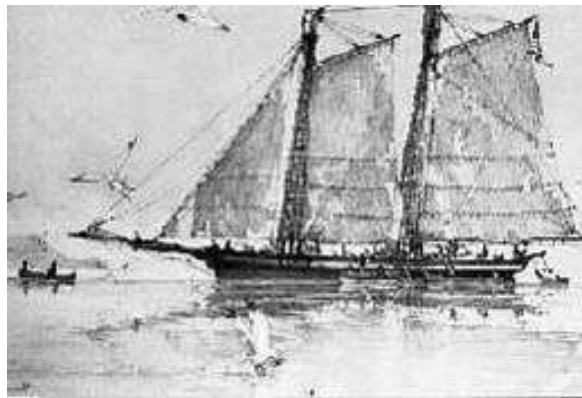
In 2001, representatives of local historical societies, museums, and other groups have been meeting with City staff to plan appropriate commemorations of the sesquicentennial of

Seattle’s birth. A schedule of events can be found on at www.seattle150.org and www.historylink.org on the Web.

Ongoing sesquicentennial activities include the Museum of History & Industry’s new Metropolis150 exhibit and the Log House Museum’s continuing The Spirit Returns exhibit on the Duwamish Tribe. HistoryLink itself was established as a sesquicentennial project in 1998 and has greatly expanded its content, particularly neighborhood histories, in anticipation of this year’s 150th anniversary on November 13. HistoryLink and the University of Washington Press will also publish a new overview history, *Seattle & King County Timeline*, in November.

There will be ample opportunity in the coming weeks to note, honor, and reflect upon the founding of Seattle. Although recent national and international events have dampened our mood, it would be a shame to ignore the sesquicentennial — and the 15 decades of struggle, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph that followed. We need to rally around our local history with the same respect we hold for our nation, in whose saga our own is a unique and important chapter.

For more information about HistoryLink, call 447-8140 or go to www.historylink.org on the Web. ☼



Pioneers aboard the 60-ton schooner, the Exact, rowed ashore and named their settlement New York. It was slower to grow than its East Coast counterpart, so the name was changed to New York-Alki, meaning New York “by and by.”

Celebrate Founders Day at Alki

By Patricia Filer, Southwest Seattle Historical Society/Log House Museum

November 13, 2001 marks the beginning of the 150th anniversary celebration of the founding of Seattle, which began with the landing of the Alki pioneers. This sesquicentennial year provides an opportunity to look at Seattle's rich history and honor all of those who have contributed to it.



In 1905, Lenora Denny, daughter of pioneer Arthur Denny, donated a monument to commemorate and honor her parents and the other founding families. The Birthplace of Seattle was originally located on the grounds of the Stockade Hotel at 63rd Avenue SW & Alki Avenue SW, but was moved across the street in 1926. Photo postcard.



In 1951, General Douglas MacArthur presided over the Seattle Centennial celebration at this site, with thousands of Seattle residents in attendance. The Log House Museum has created a special exhibit about this monument that will be unveiled on November 13.

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society and the Alki Community Council have teamed up to plan and host a number of commemorative events at Alki on Tuesday, November 13, which are open to the public.

11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Founders Day Luncheon, at Salty's on Alki (\$30 per person).

2:15–2:45 p.m. Re-enactment of the landing of the Alki pioneers, at Alki Beach.

2:50–3:15 p.m. Unveiling of the commemorative plaques on the pioneer monument honoring the contributions of female pioneers and Native peoples, and unveiling of a mural on the Alki Market that features nearly life-sized images of the *Exact* (the pioneers' ship) and an Indian canoe.

3:30–5:00 p.m. Unveiling of a traveling exhibit featuring the centennial events at the *Birthplace of Seattle* monument in 1951 as well as other events throughout the monument's history, at the Log House Museum.

Descendants of pioneer families and of the Duwamish and other Native peoples of this area have been invited to participate in the re-enactment. The weather may be uncooperative, as it was in 1851, but the re-enactment party will actually travel to the site by ship (the *Yankee Clipper* will play the part of the *Exact*), transferring into small boats and wading through cold water to arrive at the beach.

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society's The Spirit Returns sesquicentennial exhibit has earned the exceptionally high regard of museum visitors and our heritage organization peers. The exhibit tells the story of the Duwamish, Seattle's first people, whose ancestors lived here for thousands of years, and the American pioneers who landed at Alki (*AL-kee*) in 1851 to establish homesteads. It will be held over for another year and become part of the City's Sesquicentennial Year Calendar of Events. This exhibit owes much of its success to the artifacts and stories that have been so generously lent to the Log House Museum by pioneer and Duwamish descendants and by other museums and historical societies.

The Log House Museum, at 3003 61st Avenue SW, is open on Thursdays (12:00–6 p.m.), Fridays (10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.), and weekends (12:00–3:00 p.m.). Suggested donation is \$2 per adult and \$1 per child. For more information about museum or sesquicentennial events, call the Log House Museum at 938-5293 or go to www.loghousemuseum.org on the Web. ☼

Ballard: history of reputations

By Susan Cook, Ballard Historical Society

Ballard today is like a small town within the bigger city of Seattle. Our residents have a strong sense of identity, living in a community that has earned a number of reputations in its long history.

The site of an important village of the Shilshole-amish branch of the Duwamish tribe, where saltwater inlet combined with freshwater access inland and lush cedar forest, was destined to become an ideal place for settlers from across the country and throughout the world who came out west from the 1850s to the 1880s. In November 1889 the City of Ballard was granted its charter by the new State government in Olympia. Ballard remained an independent municipality until Seattle annexed it in 1907.

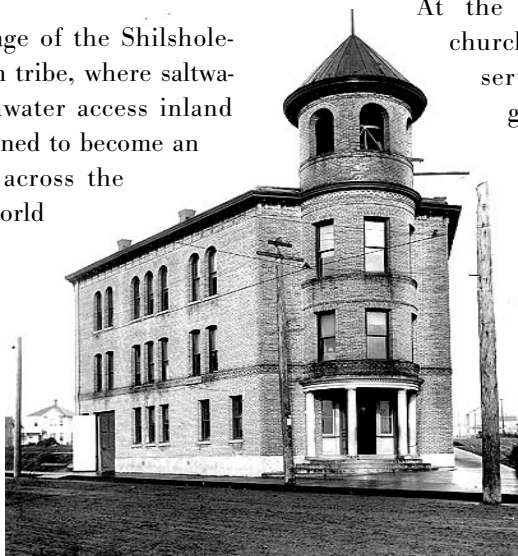
The first reputation Ballard earned was as an important mill town, supplying much of the lumber needed to rebuild neighboring Seattle after its Great Fire of 1889. By 1903, Ballard mills were producing more red cedar shingles than any other community nationwide, earning Ballard the nickname “Shingle Town, USA.”

Ballard soon earned its second reputation, as a Scandinavian community. Although early census statistics show that the population was never more than about 35% Scandinavian descent, the influence of this large segment of the community was especially visible.

Ballard was also known for

its spiritual and “spirits-ual” influences. For a time there were more saloons in a four-block stretch of Ballard Avenue than in any other community west of the Mississippi, 22 saloons at its zenith in 1907.

At the same time, there were 22 churches, most of which conducted services in a Scandinavian language.



Ballard City Hall, 1902. Photo by Asahel Curtis, courtesy UW Special Collections.

Ballard has also been known for its landmarks. In 1910, Fishermen’s Terminal opened on the south shore of Salmon Bay, establishing Ballard as an important homeport for local fishing families. The Hiram M. Chittenden Locks, which opened in 1916, is an important maritime feature and engineering landmark. The Locks provide a controlled gateway between Lake Union and Puget Sound. Golden

Gardens Park, acquired by the Seattle Parks and Recreation in the 1920s, and the Shilshole breakwater and marina, constructed in the 1950s, turned Ballard’s western shore into an important recreation destination.



An electric trolley crosses the Ballard Bridge in 1933. Photo courtesy Seattle Municipal Archives.

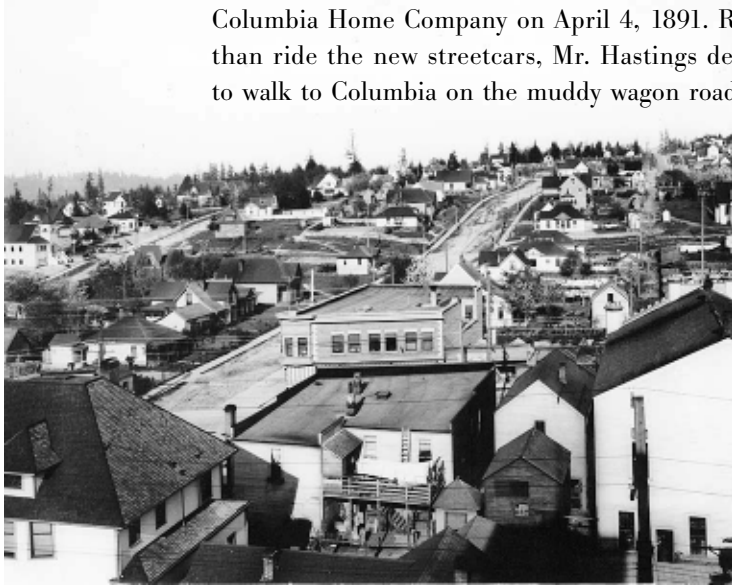
Today, Ballard enjoys new reputations. This is a community of involved parents, independent seniors, active volunteer organizations, and committed community planners, all carrying on a tradition that began more than a hundred years ago.

For more information about Ballard’s history, call Susan Cook at 782-6844. ☼

Columbia City one year old: April 4, 1892

By Buzz Anderson, Rainier Valley Historical Society

The following excerpt is from a book by H. H. A. Hastings, pioneer Columbia City attorney. He read about Columbia City lots advertised for sale by the Columbia Home Company on April 4, 1891. Rather than ride the new streetcars, Mr. Hastings decided to walk to Columbia on the muddy wagon road over



Panorama of Columbia City, 1908. Photo by Asahel Curtis, courtesy UW Special Collections.



Portrait of H. H. A. Hastings, Columbia City attorney. Photo courtesy Rainier Valley Historical Society.

Beacon Hill to see the first land development in Rainier Valley. He must have liked what he saw as he was one of the first to buy land and start building a house. He joined others to begin setting up a new town government.

“The town is today just one year old. On the 4th of April, 1891, the slightly high ground upon which it is located was entirely bare of any structure and enveloped in the woods. Now, much of

the timber has been cut down and the work of clearing is progressing. From forty to fifty residences of inviting appear-

ances have been erected besides several store buildings. A handsome building has been erected by the local lodge of Knights of Pythias. A \$10,000 schoolhouse is being built and has now an attendance of 85 scholars, with two teachers.

“There is an extensive system of water pipes supplying the town by gravitation with pure spring water. There is also a post office and two church denominations hold services each Sunday. The Columbia Home Company proposes to expend several thousand dollars during this summer in improvement of the Columbia Park and making a lake therein. Columbia is a 25 minute ride from Seattle on the line of the Rainier Ave. Electric Railway.

“Offers of lots for sale at \$300, payable \$10 cash and \$1 per week thereafter without interest. Upon the request of any purchaser and upon being given reasonable assurance of good faith, the Home Company is prepared to erect a residence according to plans submitted by the purchaser and to take payment therefor in weekly or monthly payments with or without interest as the purchaser may choose.

“The Home Company also offers for sale acre tracts adjoining Columbia, for home and garden purposes. Most of these tracts have a fine view of Lake Washington and will be sold on terms to suit. All of this land was originally purchased at bottom prices and as the Home Company sells at a small profit the price at which it now holds Columbia property is very low and the liberality of its terms far excels any terms offered elsewhere in or near Seattle.”

Mr. Hastings evidently enjoyed his walk out to Columbia City on that first day: he continued to walk each day between his law practice downtown and home at the top of the hill on Angeline Street.

For more information about southeast Seattle's history, call Buzz Anderson, Rainier Valley Historical Society, at 722-2838 or send e-mail to Marvbuzz@aol.com ❀

Green Lake: light rail circa 1891

By Louis Fiset, Green Lake Park Alliance

In 1891, when annexation of the Green Lake district extended Seattle city limits to North 85th Street, the population of the future Green Lake neighborhood stood in the hundreds. This would soon change with the arrival of the electric streetcar, making it easy to get downtown and stimulating settlement in the area.

Dr. E. C. Kilbourne and his partners were developing a 240-acre tract in Fremont, and extended Seattle's new electric trolley line northward from downtown in order to draw people into the area. Fremont residents soon became some of Seattle's first commuters. Nearby, W. D. Wood eagerly anticipated this new line, having recently purchased 600 acres of land near Green Lake. Like Kilbourne, who also owned a large parcel on Green Lake's east side, Wood believed that efficient and inexpensive transportation would help bring potential buyers to his platted tracts.

Together they organized the Green Lake Electric Railway, which began operations in 1891. Their corporation laid 4.5 miles of rail, linking the Consolidated Electric Line at Fremont with a 10-acre pleasure resort and picnic grounds at the north end of the lake. There, trolley patrons could enjoy picnic parties, a restaurant, and a dance pavilion on the site now occupied by the Bathhouse Theater. Soon Kilbourne and Wood were hawking Green Lake as "Seattle's choicest suburb."

Initially, lakewater lapped at the tracks — the lake's lowering was 20 years away. Since that made double tracking impossible, the trolley ran counterclockwise around the lake, terminating at Mrs. Gilson's pleasure resort before heading back to the city on the same tracks. In 1902 the Green Lake line was extended all the way

around Green Lake and passed through Woodland Park on its return downtown. That loop allowed more than one car at a time to run on the track. Initially, one car ran every 45 minutes but by 1903



In 1891, the Seattle Consolidated Street Railway Co. Line 20 traveled through Woodland Park to Green Lake. Photo courtesy UW Special Collections and Louis Fiset.

commuters could count on trolleys to come by at five-minute intervals during peak hours and every ten minutes during midday. Stations along the route were named Mountain View, School House, Tahoe, Green Lake, Fern Hill, and Denny.

By 1930 the automobile was entrenched in American culture, reducing demand for the uncomfortable and often crowded trolley cars. By 1932, with completion of the Aurora Avenue Expressway and

the George Washington Memorial (Aurora) Bridge, the slow-moving trolleys had nearly outlived their usefulness. Five years later, two rubber-tire bus lines replaced the Green Lake trolley line altogether.

The rail bed is now a cinder track for joggers who puff their way around the three-and-a-half-mile loop.

For more information about Green Lake's neighborhood history, send e-mail to Louis Fiset at fiset@u.washington.edu 🌸



By 1936, people from all over Seattle were enjoying Green Lake. Photo courtesy Seattle Municipal Archives.

Licton Springs: how a community sprang from a spring

By Liz Kearns, Aurora-Licton Community Council

The Licton Springs community gets its name from *Liq'tid* or Licton, the Salish word for the reddish iron oxide that still bubbles up in the springs located at Licton Springs Park. The springs had spiritual significance to the Native Americans who camped and built sweat lodges nearby. They also picked cranberries on the 85-acre marsh that is now the site of North Seattle Community College.

In 1870, David Denny purchased 160 acres, including Licton Springs, from the U.S. government for \$1.25 an acre and built a summer cabin. The Licton Springs neighborhood of today has three homes originally built by members of the Denny family. Today's Licton Springs Park was once owned by the Denny family and was later used as a thermal bath spa before the water was diverted into storm drains. In 1987, the park and playground were renovated and interpretive signs were installed near the capped spring.

In early years, small truck farms, dairies, chicken farms, and greenhouses prospered in Licton Springs. One of the larger operations, Pilling's Dairy, evolved into a unique neighborhood attraction with an international reputation. Today,

the Licton Springs community and the Pilling family are working together to preserve Pilling's Pond, an area used since 1933 by Chuck Pilling to raise aquatic birds.

Aurora Avenue North has long been the area's backbone, but Licton Springs's name and character have changed dramatically. Heavy auto- and tourist-oriented development began in the 1930s, making Licton Springs more attractive to Seattleites. The Licton Springs community today is very diverse. One third of the community is homes, apartments, and townhouses and many of the homes are owner-occupied. One third is City-, County- or State-owned: the North Seattle Police Precinct, Seattle City Light, King County Public Health Center, Wilson-Pacific School, and North Seattle Community College. The last third is commercial, including Aurora Avenue businesses, Oak Tree Village, and Northwest Hospital Outpatient Care.

Licton Springs enjoys two City parks and a restored nature sanctuary and a population diverse in age and nationality.

For more information about the history of Licton Springs, call Liz Kearns at 525-5243 or go to www.lictonsprings.org on the Web. ❀



J. A. Pilling and assistant, circa 1915. Pilling's Dairy was one of the larger operations in Licton Springs. Photo postcard courtesy the Pilling Family and Liz Kearns.



"Before traveling to distant resorts in search of health, investigate the merits of the spa: Licton Mineral Springs and Thermal Baths," 1935. Photo courtesy Seattle Municipal Archives.

THE MAKING OF THE LICTON SPRINGS HISTORICAL BROCHURE

By Liz Kearns, Licton Springs Community Council

The Licton Springs Historical Project was an idea that came out of the neighborhood planning process. The original idea was to create both a neighborhood walking tour and a brochure about the neighborhood. It eventually became apparent that the time and money available were insufficient for both but enough to produce a very nice brochure.

Neighborhood volunteers compiled a list of goals and objectives. Native American influence in and around the area was very important to the community. In addition, the impact of Aurora Avenue and the early settlers needed to be acknowledged. The community formed a committee to interview consultants and oversee the development of a historical brochure.

Consultants were hired: Carol Tobin and Mimi Sheridan. They gathered historical information and photos, found a designer, and worked with the community volunteers to produce an outstanding 16-page historical booklet. With additional dollars from the Department of Neighborhoods, the Licton Springs Community Council sent the booklet to everyone on its community mailing list and added the booklet to its Web site.

The positive attention this historical booklet has received is evidence of the growing interest in neighborhood history. Neighborhood-based projects like this help foster a sense of community. At community events, the booklet serves as an introduction to the Licton Springs neighborhood and encourages volunteer participation from new neighbors.

For information about Neighborhood Matching Fund support for neighborhood histories, call the Department of Neighborhoods at 684-0464 or go to www.cityofseattle.net/don on the Web.☼



SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOODS DOCUMENT FASCINATING HISTORIES

Settled in 1851, Seattle was a small lumber town in the early years. Seattle's population was approximately 40,000 in 1889 when most of the city was destroyed by fire. Despite strikes, riots, and the Great Fire, growth was rapid. In 1893, the Great Northern Railway arrived. The 1897 Alaska Gold Rush made Seattle the "Gateway to Alaska." The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909 brought further growth, as did the completion of the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks in 1917, which made the city both a saltwater and freshwater port.

As the city developed, so did its neighborhoods. The previous articles are from historians in four neighborhoods that have undertaken history projects supported by the Neighborhood Matching Fund — Ballard, Columbia City, Green Lake, and Licton Springs — but there are many more.

In 1995, the Neighborhood Matching Fund supported the creation of a neighborhood museum called History House. History House volunteers have developed exhibits about the history and heritage of Seattle's diverse neighborhoods, organizations, and projects, including Ballard, Fauntleroy, Fremont, Georgetown, Leschi, Madison Park, Queen Anne, and Wallingford.

History House is at 790 North 34th Street. For hours and other information about History House, call 675-8875 or go to www.scn.org/historyhouse/ on the Web.

For more information about utilizing the Neighborhood Matching Fund to preserve the history of your neighborhood, call the Department of Neighborhoods at 684-0464.

Neighborhood Matching Fund: 13 years and 2,000 projects

By Rebecca Sadinsky, Department of Neighborhoods



The Fremont Troll was one of the first Neighborhood Matching Fund projects completed. This prominent landmark captures the spirit of the Fremont neighborhood and was the impetus for a number of other activities that brought together "Fremonsters."

In June 1988, I jumped on Seattle's neighborhoods-first bandwagon by joining the new Office of Neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Matching Fund was just one small part of the activists' platform. Many incredible and perceptive neighborhood leaders had spent the previous year studying mechanisms to insure that the wandering gaze of City government stay focused on neighborhood concerns while involving the neighbors in addressing those concerns. Looking back at the ambitious, idealistic notions in circulation at that time, the Neighborhood Matching Fund seemed a comparatively easy approach to creating a stronger neighborhood: City alliance.

With all the enthusiasm and limited knowledge that come with being newly-pledged, I was anxious to dig in on this seemingly simple idea. What could be more fun than helping the City dole out public funds to neighborhood-selected projects, with neighbors themselves drafting ideas, finding local resources, and carrying out the projects? Surely the famous "strings" attached to public funds would simply disappear in the face of such a small, homegrown, volunteer-driven program. Surely neighbors were ready to work hand-in-hand with City government to accomplish improvement projects. That would be easy — surely.

It wasn't quite so easy: it took a lot of people putting in a heck of a lot of work before the program got off the ground.

When I look at the program today I am reminded how much was set in place by the first advisory group that came together in 1988 to establish

Neighborhood Matching Fund guidelines. Subsequent committees and Department of Neighborhoods staff members have tweaked and tugged at these guidelines, yet the framework is fundamentally the same as that hammered out by that judicious group who took the barest outline of an idea and worked it into programmatic terms.

That group of farsighted advisors included Dick Baldwin, Suzi Burke, Earl Cruzen, Claude Forward, Margie Freeman, Jules James, Grace Jansons, Kent Kammerer, Bob Klug, Skip Knox, Ron Lewis, Bob Mackin, Ken Olsen, and Eugene Wasserman. These were the folks who grappled to work out the definition of what kinds of programs could be funded and who could apply, build a program that neighborhoods of any income level could use, and develop a fair method of peer review for applications. Juan Bocanegra and Sue Taoka played an important role helping us be mindful of the different ways people form community, realizing that often geographic neighborhood groups do not fully reflect the ideas and peoples in a community.

Then-Councilmember Jim Street helped guide the thinking of the advisory committee in many ways, but particularly with regular reminders that not all neighborhoods are organized the same way. He suggested that the new program leave opportunity for a range of different kinds of neighborhood groups, even help promote the formation of new groups.

This fall — 13 years later — the Neighborhood Matching Fund made its 2,000th neighborhood project award. Notwithstanding my own obvious bias, it looks today as though the Neighborhood Matching Fund is the greatest legacy of the neighborhoods movement of 1987–88.

It seems significant to me that the 2,000th award is for a project that will plant trees on a residential street. As big as the Neighborhood Matching Fund is now — \$4.5 million a year — it is still primarily a way to promote the most grassroots of neighborhood activities. Without a doubt the expanded

"I'm a sucker for community gardens, farmers markets, and open space re-naturalization projects, and I admire the determination of the many green-minded folks in town who make wonderful, welcoming, informal public spaces out of the sparest of urban lots."

Fund in 2001 is supporting many exciting, highly ambitious, and expensive neighborhood-led projects that could not have been supported in earlier years. Yet the growth of the Fund has also significantly increased the number of small projects we have supported – projects like 16 trees planted on a block.

The Neighborhood Matching Fund has accomplished some remarkable feats:

- Since 1988, the City has invested over \$25 million in neighborhood improvements.
- The community currently matches every \$1 million from the Neighborhood Matching Fund with \$1.63 million in cash, volunteer labor, and donated goods and professional services.
- Over 650,000 recorded volunteer hours have gone in to Fund-supported projects.

In 1991, the Kennedy School of Government and the Ford Foundation recognized the value of the Neighborhood Matching Fund program by naming it as one of the nation's 10 most innovative state and local programs. Since then, the Department of Neighborhoods has helped more than 50 cities – from Victoria, British Columbia to Charlotte, North Carolina to Mafikeng, South Africa – establish their own matching fund programs.

For me, the Neighborhood Matching Fund succeeds so well because it is so sensitive to what neighborhood organizations seem to want from it. At the ripe old age of 13, the Neighborhood Matching Fund could sit back on its laurels, stick to what we already know and what we've already done, and relax into the role of a bureaucratic institution. But the dozens of neighborhood leaders who have served on the Neighborhood Matching Fund Committee or application review teams continue to work with City staff to assess the program and make it even more responsive to a larger and more diverse set of people.

Jim Diers, the first staff member of the Office of Neighborhoods more than 13 years ago and now director of the Department of Neighborhoods, deserves so much of the credit for the freshness of the Neighborhood Matching Fund. Both by example and through message, Jim has consistently reminded us that the Matching Fund is a program to support grassroots action. It is a means for making neighborhoods more inclusive, for reaching out to include new people, and for supporting new – even crazy – ideas, as long as they come from a grassroots neighborhood group.

I love the program's many lasting treasures: projects

both small and large that stand in every neighborhood of Seattle and that would not have been there if not for the devoted efforts of visionary and generous people. We surely should publish a map of these treasures except there are too many to map. That's also true about listing my personal favorites: there have just been too many over the course of 13 years. I will say that I'm a sucker for community gardens, farmers markets, and open space re-naturalization projects, and I admire the determination of the many green-minded folks in town who make wonderful, welcoming, informal public spaces out of the sparest of urban lots. Oh, and then there are the whimsical artworks woven into so many neighborhood endeavors these days. But don't get me started – there are so many projects and people, I can't begin to name them all.

It has been such a pleasure and an honor to work with so many of the people of Seattle to create these treasures and help build a small program of the City government that could support people working to build community. And, as if that wasn't enough, I have also had the privilege over the past 13 years to work as part of the most amazing staff team, full of smart, creative, honest, principled, and dedicated people who have taught me so much.

The Neighborhood Matching Fund is certainly in good hands as it looks to the next 1,000 projects and the continuing challenge to translate this simple idea – working with the community to strengthen neighborhoods – into an even better program.



THANK YOU, REBECCA!

After 13 years of leadership with the Neighborhood Matching Fund program, Rebecca Sadinsky is leaving the Department of Neighborhoods to join the staff of Powerful Schools.

Powerful Schools was funded by community councils and PTAs from four elementary schools in Rainier Valley with support from the Neighborhood Matching Fund in 1991. The program is dedicated to creating world-class public schools, creating strong, vital communities, and replicating success in other schools and communities.

The Department of Neighborhoods wishes Rebecca all the best as she continues the mission we share – to build community in Seattle. Thank you for 13 wonderful years! 🌸

Benefit from others' experiences at the Neighborhood Matching Fund Ideas Fair

By Laurie Ames, Department of Neighborhoods



Hear from seasoned volunteers how they put the Neighborhood Matching Fund to work in their neighborhood and learn how to put it to work in your neighborhood! The Department of Neighborhoods is hosting an Ideas Fair on Saturday, December 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Seattle Central Community College (1701 Broadway Avenue). Whether you

are in the “just thinking about a project idea” stage, in the “ready to apply for money” stage, or in the middle of a full-blown project, this is the place to be!

The first hour of the workshop will feature displays of successful projects, including playgrounds, traffic circles, public art, P-Patch community gardens, business district improvements, facility improvements, design projects, and more. The second hour will offer workshops on a variety of topics, including traffic improvements, how to write a successful application, tree pruning, and grassroots fundraising (including a panel of local funders), and increasing neighborhood involvement. Coffee and refreshments will be provided.

Don't miss this opportunity to see what other neighborhoods have done and talk with experienced neighborhood activists on how to pull it all together! For more information, call the Department of Neighborhoods at 684-0464. ☀

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Jim Diers, Director
Paul Schell, Mayor

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Accommodations for persons with disabilities provided upon request.

Department of Neighborhoods staff showcases Matching Fund in South Africa

By Glenn Harris and Pamela Green, Department of Neighborhoods

This July we had the opportunity to spend three weeks in South Africa discussing community grant-making programs with several South African municipalities and rural communities. The Department of Neighborhoods has had a two-year working relationship with South Africa, established through Professor Chuck Adams, Ohio State University School of Public Policy and Management, and Dr. Michael Bell, director of MEB Associates. Following a study tour by a South African delegation to Seattle last spring, we traveled to South Africa to make presentations to various government officials, traditional leaders, and non-governmental organizations in four of South Africa's nine provinces.

As described by Professor Adams, the Community Partnership Grant Program is aimed at creating financial partnerships between local government, business and other philanthropic sources to fund grassroots, citizen-initiated community improvement projects. Much is being done internally and by donor nations to improve local democratic governance by strengthening local government and non-governmental institutions. But such institutions are not ends in themselves. They are means for citizens to identify and address community needs. The Community Partnership Grant Program is designed to strengthen an essential but often overlooked element in this formula: the citizen.

This idea of a Community Partnership Grant Program has been enthusiastically embraced at the grassroots level in the cities of Port Elizabeth, King Williams Town, Mafikeng, and Vryburg. These municipalities are working with community organizations and non-governmental agencies. The City of Seattle was asked to participate in the Community Partnership Grant Program in South Africa because of the international recognition of the Neighborhood Matching Fund.

With help from Rebecca Sadinsky and other Department of Neighborhoods staff, we put together a working "tool kit" for successful small-grant programs. We focused on two components of the Neighborhood Matching Fund: Small Sparks and the Small and Simple Projects Fund. The tool kit contains documents and processes that represent the collective wisdom and experience of hundreds of neighborhood leaders throughout Seattle. It also includes examples of real neighborhood projects.

The tool kit and our stories from Seattle were warmly received everywhere we went. The hospitality and generosity of the South African people moved us. In the Xhosa language they call this "Ubuntu." Roughly translated, it means generosity and brotherhood. As a cultural value, it does not translate directly into English. But it is this concept that allowed Nelson Mandela to invite his jailer of 27 years to sit at his side during his inauguration dinner. And it was this sense of community, dignity, and unity that moved us most of all.

Another delegation of South Africans is coming to Seattle this month as follow-up to a very successful visit last spring when we introduced them to the Yakima Nation. King Sandile and representatives from King Williams Town are planning to establish a sister city relationship with the Yakima Nation.

For more information about South Africa's Community Partnership Grant Program, call Glenn Harris, Greater Duwamish Neighborhood Service Center coordinator, at 233-2044, or Pamela Green, Southeast Neighborhood Service Center coordinator, at 386-1924. R



A school choir performed for Pamela and Glenn during their visit to the township of Motherwell, Port Elizabeth.



Pamela (far left) and Glenn (far right) met with the Member of Executive Council (MEC) for Local Government and Housing, North-West Province, Mr. Darkey Africa, and the Executive Mayor of

Nonprofit movement shakes up Japan

By Dave Bockmann, Department of Neighborhoods

Over the past couple of years, I've traveled to Japan several times. My trips were sponsored by the Mie Prefectural government and the Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnership. The purpose was to share information about Seattle's Neighborhood Matching Fund program and to learn about Japan's volunteer-led, community-based organizations.

One can't talk about volunteerism in Japan without reference to the 1995 earthquake that devastated Kobe. Over 6,300 people died, 40,000 people were injured, and 300,000 people were left homeless in that awful disaster.

Frozen with bureaucratic indecision, government agencies were slow to respond. In their stead, hundreds of thousands of volunteers, organized in informal organizations and *chonaikai* (neighborhood associations), immediately rushed to the most devastated parts of the city. Volunteers rescued those trapped under fallen debris, provided medical care, helped in evacuation shelters, distributed relief goods, cooked emergency foods, checked buildings for safety, cleaned debris, and provided psychological support to survivors.

Until the great Kobe earthquake, there was a general belief that volunteerism and the nonprofit sector were western ideas that wouldn't work in Japan. A basic tenet, one encouraged by government bureaucrats, was that "the government takes care of everything so that the people don't need to." No longer.

Within weeks of the earthquake, the national Diet (parliament) began discussing legislation that would produce the 1998 Nonprofit Organization Law. Until then there was no legal framework for small civic groups to incorporate, and traditional Japanese nonprofits were more like semi-governmental organizations than an independent sector. The NPO law for the first time permitted prefectural governments to grant nonprofit status to voluntary community-based organizations.

Some prefectural governments have gone beyond just recognizing nonprofits and have established NPO support centers. The Mie Prefectural government is one. Mie Prefecture, located several hun-

dred kilometers south of Tokyo, is similar to King County in size and population. In 1995, Mie elected a progressive governor, Masayasu Kitagawa, who was determined to shake up the bureaucracy. Hiromi Morinishi, who has been my Mie guide, was appointed by the governor to head up the new Department of Nonprofit Assistance in 1997.

Mr. Morinishi admits now that when appointed he had little knowledge of NPOs. "We were the first to start such a Department in Japan and I had no model to follow," he says. "So I decided to do research. I traveled intensively throughout the prefecture, meeting staff and volunteers of nonprofit organizations and volunteers. This opened my eyes and changed my views from that of a bureaucrat to that of a citizen."

Under Morinishi's guidance, the prefecture opened a Nonprofit Assistance Center in a convenient location adjacent to the railway station. The Center is governed by a citizen board representing dozens of community-based organizations formed over the past several years. The center is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and on weekends. The center has public access computer terminals, copy and fax machines, information journals, and free meeting space. During each of my visits, the Center has been bubbling with activity and discussion.

The nonprofits that I've visited in Mie include environmental activists, associations for people with disabilities, open space advocates, elder caregiving groups, and consumer cooperatives. With help from the Mie Prefectural Nonprofit Assistance Center, the leaders of the citizen groups are beginning to share information and develop leadership skills. Where once government was entirely top-down, citizen leaders are now demanding to be heard and consulted *before* government decisions are made.

It might be said, the Kobe earthquake shook up more than the just the countryside.

Dave Bockmann is the Neighborhood Matching Fund project manager for southwest Seattle. For more information about his work with the Mie Prefectural government in Japan, call 684-0717 or send e-mail to dave.bockmann@ci.seattle.wa.us ☼

A month in Perugia: under the Umbrian Sun

By Brent Crook, Department of Neighborhoods



In March 2000, I was fortunate enough to spend a month in Seattle's sister city in Italy: Perugia. I went there to study Italian, thanks to a scholarship sponsored by the Seattle-Perugia Sister City Association, and spent the month studying at the

Universita per Stranieri (University for Foreigners) and meeting with Perugian officials working on sister city relations. I met with the mayor of Perugia and, on behalf of Mayor Paul Schell, I presented him a Seattle Millennium book and a letter pledging Mayor Schell's strong support for ongoing cooperation between our two cities.

I also spent time with city councilmembers (they have over 50!) and citizens, discussing a range of possible collaborations. One discussion involved a show of Perugian artifacts and goods in Seattle. That show, presented at Seattle Center last July, was very successful. I also met regularly with merchants along a street in Perugia that has been reclaimed from drugs and prostitution. That street is now a thriving shopping street. In the future, the merchants hope to partner with a neighborhood business district in Seattle for an exchange of retail goods.

Given the density of the cities in Italy, garden space is very limited. Perugia sets aside land for retired people to garden for free. The elderly and retired have priority at the Orti per Pensionati (Garden for Pensioners), the Perugian equivalent of a P-Patch garden. This helps to ensure that elders have continued opportunities to garden and to socialize. Each pensioner has a plot of land to garden as he or she wishes. The garden I visited was rich with early spring greens and undergoing preparation for the annual abundance of tomatoes, basil, zucchini, and peppers. ☼

NEIGHBORHOOD MATCHING FUND PROJECTS HAVE FOSTERED INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

CUBAN PLAY IN RAINIER VALLEY

In July and August, four theater, music, and dance artists from the Espacio Abierto Theatre Workshop in Cuba joined youth involved in the Rainier Valley Youth Theater to produce a professional theatrical production called *Mabaire! No Me Olvides!* (Don't Forget Me!), an original musical based on an Afro-Cuban story about a simple fisherman's journey to become Saint Rafael, Orixá of the Fishermen. A \$10,000 award from the Neighborhood Matching Fund supported development of this project. The production was staged at the Rainier Valley Cultural Center in Columbia City.

FILIPINO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

In 1995 and 1998, the Filipino Youth Empowerment Project received awards from the Neighborhood Matching Fund, totaling \$81,878, that supported a youth-developed strategy to strengthen human services provided through six partner public schools and involvement in a variety of neighborhood improvement projects. Hands-on skills in leadership, citizenship, and environmental stewardship were highlighted, with Filipino elders serving as role models. The young people designed and painted a mural on the south side of the Filipino Center on Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. They also traveled to the Philippines where they met with everyone from homeless youth to the nation's president.

SEATTLE CHINESE GARDEN

Last year, the West Seattle Chamber of Commerce received a \$100,000 Neighborhood Matching Fund award to pay for construction drawings and other design work for the Seattle Chinese Garden, an authentic classical garden and cultural center planned for the north end of South Seattle Community College in West Seattle. Although construction of the six-acre garden is pending, the Seattle Chinese Garden Society has created a 10,000-sq.-ft. display garden on site, complete with a pavilion fabricated in Chongqing, China.

TAEJON PAVILION

In 1998, the Sturgus Avenue Park Association undertook assembly of an octagonal pavilion donated and fabricated by the City of Taejon, Korea, as part of a cultural exchange between Seattle and Taejon. A \$87,394 Neighborhood Matching Fund award helped pay for site preparation, foundation construction, and installation. The award was matched with community contributions of \$321,990. The pavilion is located at what is now Taejon Park, a two-acre park on Sturgus Avenue South at South Judkins Street. ☼



Peace compost: the ultimate metaphor for renewal

On the weekend of September 15–16, over 75,000 people participated in the Flower Vigil at Seattle Center's International Fountain, leaving nearly a million flowers, poems, expressions of sympathy for the families of the victims of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and messages of hope for the world.

What happened to those flowers? The Interbay P-Patch Community Garden offered to compost them, and hundreds of people – gardeners and non-gardeners – joined in the effort.

“Compost is the ultimate metaphor for renewal, something we all need right now,” said Interbay P-Patch coordinator Jon Rowley. Following the closing ceremony, volunteers separated flowers and organic material from plastic, wire, and other non-organic materials. In addition to P-Patch gardeners from all over the city, firefighters, police officers, students from the Center School, and members of the public worked side by side to complete the cleanup.

Eileen McCary chose to help sort the written messages, photographs, poems, drawings, and other memorial gifts that were left at the fountain. “We smoothed the crumpled papers, set aside the wet things to dry, sorted the origami doves from the stuffed animals, the flags, the prayer beads, the eagle feathers, the firemen's badges crossed with black tape, the candle stubs, the children's drawings, the ballet shoes – gently, so that nothing

would be crushed or lost,” said McCary. “The blessing to us, as we touched these gifts, is that we read – to ourselves and out loud to each other – hundreds, thousands, of the messages. There was time enough. Everyone was of one heart.”

“The respectful removal of so many thousands of memorial gifts and flower arrangements was done with care and with a sincere sense of community spirit that we should all be very proud of one another,” said Pat Kaufman, Seattle Center Recycling Coordinator, in a follow-up message to Rowley.

“The expertise and positive energy of P-Patch

folks brought substantial structure and direction for other volunteers to follow in this largest-ever (for me) community work party. I look forward to having opportunities to share some of the same spirit and satisfaction by working together on future projects.”



Interbay P-Patch gardener Eileen McCary helped sort memorial mementos for future display.

Kaufman arranged to deliver the flowers to Interbay P-Patch at 15th Avenue West & West Wheeler Street, estimating that 80 cubic yards of greens and flowers were recycled in this effort. At the P-Patch, gardeners mixed the flowers with “browns,” moistened the heap, and put it into large bulk storage bins for hot composting.

“Once again, P-Patch gardeners from throughout Seattle pitched in, along with members of the public who responded to radio and TV coverage with bags of leaves and their presence,” said Rowley. “Even the circus travelling through town responded, offering bedding from the elephants.”



Two P-Patch volunteers separate flowers from flags and other mementos at the International Fountain in anticipation of peace compost.

“During a time of feeling helpless and emotionally drained with the events that shattered our sense of the world and humanity, 80 people came together in one day to mix compost, pitchfork by pitchforkfull, wheelbarrow by wheelbarrowfull,” said Rowley. “This is something we know how to do, something we understand the meaning of, something that makes a difference. The now-steaming piles are, and will always be, symbols and agents for hope and renewal.”

Three big bins of compost need to be turned regularly, to incorporate more oxygen to assist the composting process. The whole process will take about 10 weeks. The finished compost will be used in a new memorial garden at Seattle Center and a peace garden at Interbay P-Patch.

For more information about the Interbay P-Patch, call Jon Rowley at 283-7566 or send e-mail to rowley@nwlink.com. ☼

*“May we all
make the love
and warmth and
light that will
help us through
these troubling
days and toward
that dream of a
wholesome and
healthy world.”*

*— Yen Chin,
Interbay P-Patch
gardener*

“After September 11, a spontaneous event took place at the Idriss Mosque, 1420 NE Northgate Way. The Mosque is at the crossroads of the Maple Leaf, Pinehurst, and Victory Heights neighborhoods. After the mosque was threatened, groups of local residents stood watch 24 hours a day. Flowers and notes were taken to the mosque and filled the front lawn.

“The Church Council of Greater Seattle has formed Watchful Eyes, and volunteers from Watchful Eyes and neighbors are still at the mosque every day. Watchful Eyes invites volunteers of all religious faiths to take turns guarding local mosques to discourage the unfair targeting of innocent Muslims.”

*Yolanda Martinez, Coordinator
Lake City Neighborhood
Service Center*

NEIGHBORHOOD PEACE MEMORIALS



Heart of Phinney Park held a memorial to a friend who was a passenger aboard American Airlines Flight 77.



The Statue of Liberty at Alki has hosted an ongoing memorial to the victims of terrorist attacks since September 11. The mementos from this site have been catalogued and preserved by the Southwest Seattle Historical Society. Photo courtesy Don Allen.

City responds to September 11 attack

By Anne Takekawa, Department of Neighborhoods

The City of Seattle responded decisively following the acts of terrorism on September 11. Immediately afterwards, staff from the Human Services Department, Seattle Police Department, Office for Civil Rights, and Department of Neighborhoods worked together to organize a meeting of Muslim and Arab community leaders with Mayor Paul Schell, Council President Margaret Pageler, Chief Gil Kerlikowske, and department heads.

At the September 14 meeting, community representatives shared their concerns over recent acts of vandalism, assault, and harassment targeted toward Seattle-area Muslim and Arab individuals and places of worship. Chief Kerlikowske reported that the Seattle Police Department has responded aggressively to these incidents. He encouraged the group to report all hate crime activity. Mayor Schell assured the assembly that the City would enforce its no-tolerance policy on hate crimes and requested ideas for strengthening the City's partnership with Seattle's Arab and Muslim communities.

Among the recommendations were public meetings with government officials out in the community, support for community organizing activities, a hotline to report harassment and criminal acts against Muslim and Arab-Americans, increased uniformed police presence at key sites, and help in building opportunities for sharing information on the basic tenets of Islam. City staff and elected officials initiated an immediate response following the meeting.

Mayor Schell, Councilmember Pageler, and Deputy Mayor Tom Byers have made personal visits to a number of Arab, Muslim, and South Asian communities. Staff with the Office for Civil Rights have developed and distributed a hate crimes flyer in English as well as eight Middle Eastern, Southeast Asian, and East African languages. Anti-hate crime information is being distributed by the Human Services Department to nonprofit organizations with client bases that include Muslim and Arab people. Strategic Planning Office staff is providing coordination with Seattle Public Schools.

In the community, many persons have worked tirelessly to build their own response to the backlash. Within two weeks, community activists reported the development of safety workshops for Muslim groups, a speakers bureau that will work to educate the broader community, and an action strategy to establish Seattle and Washington as hate-free zones.

Community groups that want to organize similar activities may be eligible for Neighborhood Matching Fund assistance. For more information, call Anne Takekawa at 684-4523, send e-mail to anne.takekawa@ci.seattle.wa.us, or go to www.cityofseattle.net/don/ on the Web. ☼

Hate Crime Information Line can help you or someone you know

By Michelle White, Citizens Service Bureau

Would you know if you, a family member, or a friend were a victim of a hate crime? What *is* a hate crime? Are there agencies that you can contact to get support or legal advice with regard to acts of discrimination?

Since 1992, the Citizens Service Bureau has operated a Hate Crime Information line to help people answer these questions and get referrals for assistance and support. Even if you are not the victim of a hate crime, you may feel vulnerable and unsafe due to your ethnicity, race, sexual identity, or other minority status. There are agencies and organizations that can help. For more information, call 233-1080. And remember: Anytime you are in an emergency situation, call 911.

The Citizens Service Bureau also functions as the City's information and complaints office in City Hall. The staff has an impressive array of information on City government department policies, procedures, and laws. To register a complaint or a compliment or get information about a City department or issue, call the Bureau's complaint investigators at 684-8811. For quick information about who, what, and where to call, call the Bureau's City Information Operators at 386-1234. ☼

**CITIZENS
SERVICE
BUREAU**

Hate Crime Information and Referral Line



233-1080

City.Action@ci.seattle.wa.us

Traffic congestion and accidents prompt new study of Aurora Avenue North

By Melissa Loomis, Washington State Department of Transportation

Traffic congestion and an increasing number of accidents are two reasons that the Washington State Department of Transportation, in partnership with the City of Seattle, City of Shoreline, and King County Metro Transit, has begun a new study to determine transportation improvements for Aurora Avenue North in Seattle. Aurora Avenue North is also known as State Route 99 and Highway 99. The section being studied extends from the Battery Street Tunnel in downtown Seattle to North 145th Street in Shoreline.

Aurora Avenue North has some unique characteristics. It serves as a main thoroughfare for people traveling north and south, especially if there is an accident on Interstate 5, and yet SR 99 has many driveways accessing the roadway to serve countless businesses up and down the corridor. Residents of Fremont, Greenlake, Wallingford, Phinney, Broadview, Licton Springs, Belltown, and Queen Anne access Aurora to travel to work and run errands. Aurora is a major transit corridor for buses. Pedestrians and bicyclists use Aurora to get to transit stations, businesses, and other destinations.



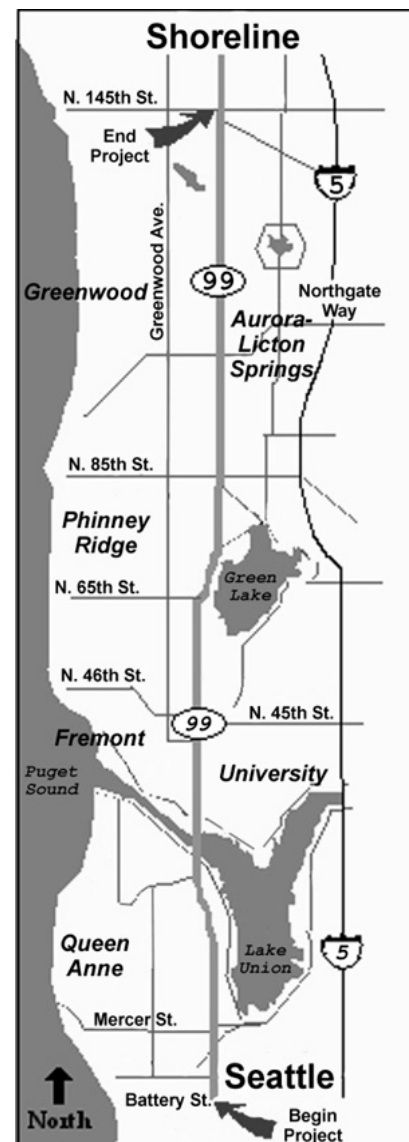
How will Aurora Avenue North function and appear in the future?

Addressing the increasing level of traffic congestion and accidents among vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists is one challenge, and another is the need to strike a balance among Aurora's many users and neighborhood interests.

"We want to hear from people in the community who use the highway, and businesses and residences that are located along the corridor," said Nytasha Sowers, WSDOT planning project manager. "We recognize the range of interests along the corridor and are striving to include different perspectives in the study."

The study's completion date is December 2002.

To be added to the SR 99 North mailing list or to get involved in the study, call Nytasha Sowers at 464-6161, send e-mail to SowersN@WSDOT.WA.GOV, or go to www.wsdot.wa.gov/mobility on the Web. ☼



New ID and discount card for people with disabilities

The Seattle Human Services Department has unveiled a new discount and identification card for persons with disabilities. FLASH – Fun Leisure Access Savings and Health – is similar to the popular Gold Card for Healthy Aging issued to people 60 and older. It features the Community Information Helpline number (461-3200), the Crisis Clinic Web site, and a barcode for Seattle Public Library use. Designed to be read by people with vision disabilities, the card is also embossed in Braille.

FLASH cardholders will receive discounts on services and products, including various businesses, restaurants, theaters, and professional services; a 50% discount on Seattle pet licenses; reduced fees at Seattle Parks and Recreation facilities (including swimming pools, the Tennis Center, Japanese Garden, and public golf courses); reduced fares on Amtrak; and free tickets to Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle Aquarium, Bumbershoot, and other special events. An updated Special Discounts Directory will be distributed in early 2002.


FLASH card eligibility is the same as for a Metro reduced-fare permit for disabled persons and for the City's Utility Discount Program. To receive the card, applicants must meet *one* of the following requirements:

- Possess a current Metro ADA paratransit card or permanent reduced fare permit for disabled persons.
- Have an obvious physical impairment meeting one or more of the medical criteria listed in the King County Metro Medical Eligibility Criteria and Conditions brochure.
- Provide verification (no more than 12 months old) of Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Veterans Administration Income.
- Be legally blind. Be on life support.
- Provide certification of disability by a Washington State-licensed physician (MD), psychiatrist, psychologist (Ph.D.), or audiologist certified by the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association.

Persons with temporary disabilities will be provided a discount and identification card printed on paper with an expiration date.

For applications and more information, call the Mayor's Office for Senior Citizens at 684-0500 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, or go to www.cityofseattle.net/humanservices/mosc/ on the Web. ☼



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